



# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

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## ● No Electrical Inspections In State Jurisdiction Areas—Tuesday, September 24, 2002

All state electrical inspectors will be attending mandatory training at the Tumwater Labor and Industries Building on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002. In many areas inspections may also be effected on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> due to travel time to and from Tumwater. We have given all staff training for the last several years in several locations on different dates or done half-day on-line teleconference training in order to minimize impact on inspection services and to minimize travel time loss. However, we now have the opportunity to learn from a nationally recognized expert in improving personal communications skills with customers. We will also use part of the day to hear feedback from a panel of our customers (contractors and other stakeholders) about things that we do well and things we do poorly. We believe the benefits gained by communicating better with our customers makes taking the inspectors out of the field for a day worthwhile.

## ● Space Still Available For 2-Day Code Update Classes

There is still some available stakeholder space for all of the training locations. The training is available to contractors, electricians, trainees, engineers, and any other interested individuals in the electrical industry. The training will cover 2002 National Electrical Code changes and the latest electrical WAC rule changes. The sessions are two consecutive days from 8 AM to 5 PM. You must attend both sessions to obtain any continuing education credit. We will offer a **total of sixteen (16) free hours of electrical continuing education units** (12 hours code update and 4 hours industry related) to all individuals that attend both days of the training.

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Oct. 02-03, 2002	Spokane Community College, Lair Building, N 1810 Greene Street, Spokane
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Oct. 21-22, 2002	Labor and Industries Building, Auditorium, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater
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Oct. 24-25, 2002	Snohomish County PUD, Auditorium, 2320 California Street, Everett
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Oct. 29-30, 2002	West Coast Yakima Center Hotel, 607 E Yakima Avenue, Yakima
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The August newsletter announcement allowed registration by postal mail only. **Due to the short time between distribution of this newsletter and the class dates, we will allow additional registration by E-mail.** Interested persons should send E-mail message to LISS235@LNI.WA.GOV and: 1) include your name and E-mail address and, 2) identify the session you want to attend. We will confirm your space by return E-mail. **Space is first-come, first-served and limited.** If you do not receive confirmation before September 25<sup>th</sup>, do not attend the training.

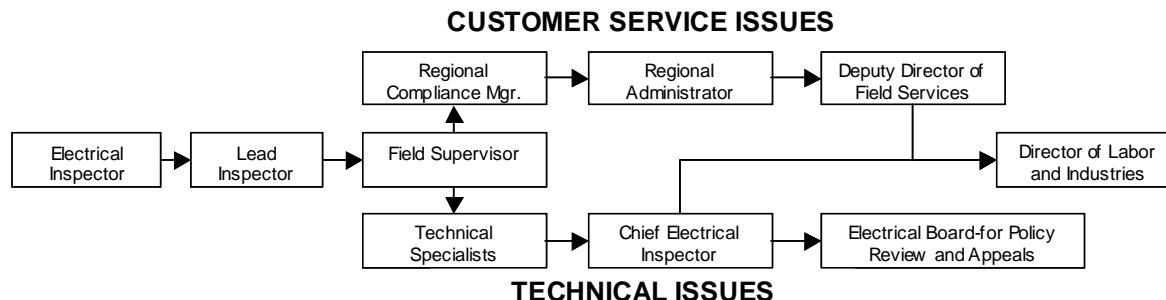
## ● Internet Renewal of Contractor Licenses, and Administrator, Electrician, and Training Certificates—System Now Available On-line as QuickCards

When your contractor license or administrator, electrician, or training certificate is about to expire, you now have the option to renew on-line. You will need to pay the fee with a credit card (debit cards can not be accepted). For your convenience, you may renew up to 90 days prior to the expiration date and your original expiration date remains the same. You may renew up to 90 days after the expiration date, but you will have to pay the (higher) late renewal fee. If your renewal is more than 90 days late, you may not renew on-line and must contact us about retaking your certification exam. You must not have any outstanding, unpaid citations with L&I or a collection agency.

Affidavits of Experience for trainees must be mailed to us after the on-line renewal, course numbers for approved CEU classes must be entered during the on-line renewal, and a current and unimpaired electrical/telecommunications contractors bond or assignment of savings (and valid certificate of insurance for telecommunications contractors) must be on file with the department prior to the on-line renewal. Give the new system a try at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/QuickCards>.

## ● Customer Service and Technical Chains of Command

Recently the department conducted a workgroup with members of the electrical contracting community. One issue the contractors asked the department to clarify was where concerns and problems should be taken for resolution. Within the department there are two separate “chains of command” as illustrated in the diagram below.



After discussing your issue with the field inspector the next step is always to the lead inspector and electrical inspection field supervisor. If you do not get resolution at this level the supervisor will direct you to the next link in the appropriate chain of command. It is important to contact department personnel in the order shown to allow the department to assist you in a timely manner.

## ● Specialty Exam Development Workgroups

The electrical section recently assembled an exam review workgroup, comprised of professional educators and subject matter experts for the purpose of reviewing all of the current electrical examinations. The department will reconvene this workgroup for the purpose of creating new examinations based on the 2002 NEC. Other workgroups will be formed this fall for the purpose of creating specialty electrical exams. To submit your name for consideration as a subject matter expert for one of these upcoming specialty exam development workgroups please complete, and fax the Electrical Exam Workgroup application to The Department of Labor and Industries at (360) 902-5229.

Committee members will be required to sign a non-disclosure statement, and must have completed or do not intend to take any of the exams that they develop. If you have already responded to the June list server announcement and submitted an application, there will be no need for you to submit another. Applications are available on our web site at: [www.lni.wa.gov/scs/electrical/examdev.pdf](http://www.lni.wa.gov/scs/electrical/examdev.pdf).

## ● Service and Outside Feeder Disconnects

For the purposes of NEC 230-70(a) and NEC 225-32 disconnecting means may be considered to be nearest the point of entrance of conductors when installed within sight and no further than 15 feet from the outside walls of a building. It is important to review all the requirements in WAC 296-46A-22530 and WAC 296-46A-23040 when installing disconnecting means that are not in or on the building but within the 15-foot envelope allowed by WAC.

## ● Electrical Question of the Month

**This Month's Question:** A bonding jumper not smaller than \_\_\_\_ copper or equivalent shall be connected between the communications grounding electrode and power grounding electrode system at the building or structure served where separate electrodes are used? A) #12, B) #8, C) #6, D) #4

**Last Month's Question:** The 2002 edition of the NEC will require GFCI devices to trip when the current to ground exceeds the value required for a Class A device to trip. What is the specified trip level for a Class A device? A) 2–4 mA, B) 3–5 mA, C) 4–6 mA, D) 20–30 mA. **The answer is: C) 4 – 6ma** [2002 NEC 100-Definitions. Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter. FPN: Class A ground-fault circuit interrupters trip when the current to ground has a value in the range of 4 mA to 6 mA.]